

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A carpet has a layer of tufting supported on a primary backing layer. A breathable membrane is disposed along an interface between the primary backing layer and a secondary backing layer. A breathable membrane is disposed along an interface between the tufting layer and the backing layer, and adhesively secures the layer of tufting to the backing layer. The breathable membrane is permeable to water vapor but impervious to liquid water, while both the tufting layer and the backing layer are permeable to water vapor. In an alternative embodiment of the invention, a laminated barrier which includes the membrane, may be made of fibers, yarns, cross-laid scrim, or plastic netting, and the breathable membrane may be protected from abrasion with a floor by means of an apertured film laminated to the membrane.